

REMARKS

Claims 1-25 are pending. Claims 1-9, 13-18, and 22 are rejected. Claims 1, 3-5, 7-10, 13-14, 17-19 and 22-23 have been amended; no new matter has been added. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejections set forth in the Office Action dated October 19, 2005 in light of the preceding amendments and following remarks.

In the Claims

Independent claims 1, 9, 13, 18 and 22 have been amended to include limitations related to subject matter previously indicated as allowable. For example, claim 9 now recites details of computing a rate reduction factor that include "1) calculating a current value of the number of bits in a video buffer that receives compressed video data from an encoder, 2) if the current value of the number of bits in the video buffer is less than a lower threshold, decreasing rate reduction for video data in a frame buffer using the rate reduction factor, 3) if the current value of the number of bits in the video buffer is greater than an upper threshold, increasing rate reduction for video data in the frame buffer using the rate reduction factor". Independent claim 9 also recites "computing a quantizer scale, wherein the rate reduction factor and the quantizer scale are computed using the current value of the number of bits in the video buffer and frame buffer information". Support for the amendments can be found throughout the Specification, and in particular, on page 9 line 19 to page 23 line 4.

Claims 3-5, 7-8, 10, 13-14, 17, 19 and 23 have been amended to clarify the claim language; no new matter has been added.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-9, 13-18 and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ishiyama (2001/0008544) in view of Liu (6,904,094).

The independent claims have been amended and now recite limitations not taught or suggested by the art of record. For example, the independent claims recite monitoring the "current value of the number of bits in a video buffer that receives compressed video data from an encoder" and increasing/decreasing "rate reduction for video data in a frame buffer" using the "current value of the number of bits in the video buffer".

The art of record does not teach or suggest all the limitations in the amended independent claims. Ishiyama is primarily concerned with changing compressed formats, with minimal time delay. Corresponding Ishiyama monitors the incoming bit rate of compressed video (in format 1), monitors the outgoing bit rate of compressed video (in format 2), and changes quantization step size based on the bit rate differences between the compressed video of different formats.

Liu also does not teach or suggest the amended limitations and independent claims. For example, Liu is silent on "calculating a current value of the number of bits in a video buffer that receives compressed video data from an encoder" as recited (he counts frames in the TPE buffer cited in the previous Office Action). And Liu does not teach or suggest "if the current value of the number of bits in the video buffer is less than a lower threshold, decreasing rate reduction for video data in a frame buffer using the rate reduction factor". Conversely, Liu enters a "panic mode" (col. 7 lines 24-34) in which frames are processed sooner (by dropping higher order coefficients, which only ever increases bit rate reduction).

For at least these reasons, Ishiyama and Liu do not teach or suggest all the limitations of independent claims 1, 9, 13, 18 and 22 and the independent claims are allowable.

Dependent claims 2-8, 10-12, and 14-17 each depend directly from independent claims 1, 9, and 13, respectively, and are therefore respectfully submitted to be patentable over Ishiyama for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to the independent claims. Further, the dependent claims recite additional elements which when taken in the context of the claimed invention further patentably distinguish the art of record.

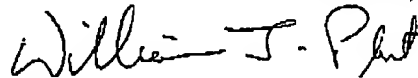
Withdrawal of the rejection under 35 USC §103(a) is therefore respectfully requested.

Claims 10-12, 19-21, and 23-25 were objected to but allowable if amended to incorporate base claim and intervening claim limitations. The allowability of claims 10-12, 19-21, and 23-25 is gratefully acknowledged, but all claims are believed allowable for the reasons set forth above.

Applicants believe that all pending claims are allowable and respectfully request a Notice of Allowance for this application from the Examiner. Should the Examiner believe that a

telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the undersigned can be reached at the telephone number set out below.

Respectfully submitted,
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